

IV. *On Burmeisteria, a new Genus of Melolonthidæ.*
By FREDERIC SCHICKENDANTZ.

[Read 6th January, 1868.]

I BEG to send to the Entomological Society of London a description and drawings of a very curious insect, of which I took in February, near Pilciao, a single specimen in the flower of a leguminaceous plant. I have sent it to Dr. Burmeister, of Buenos Aires, who informs me that the insect possesses great interest, being a typical representative in South America of a group which has hitherto been observed only on the shores of the Mediterranean, in South-Africa, and in New Holland. According to the views of that learned Entomologist, the beetle belongs to the aberrant group of *Melolonthidæ* which, in his "Handbuch der Entomologie" (IV. ii. 428), he has named *Leptopodidæ*, and is in some respects intermediate between *Macrophylla* (p. 447) and *Pachypus* (p. 462), but differs from both by the open suture, and by the prolonged metanotum, which has never before been observed in any of the forms allied to the present insect. In honour of the distinguished naturalist who has contributed so much, not only to the advancement of Entomology, but also to the scientific knowledge of the Argentine Republic, I propose to name this curious insect *Burmeisteria mirabilis*.

BURMEISTERIA.

Genus novum Coleopterorum Lamellicornium (*Phyllophaga, Leptopodidæ*).

Clypeus parabolicus, porrectus, margine subelevato, valde descendente. *Instrumenta cibaria* debilia; labrum parvum, integrum, parabolicum; mandibulæ et maxillæ absconditæ; labium triangulare, paulisper concavum, setis longis rigidis utrinque fimbriatum, medio nudum; palpi breves, articulo ultimo ovato. *Antennæ* articulis 10; primo incurvo, clavato; sequentibus tribus æqualibus, nodiformibus; quarto mucronato; sex ultimis flabellum sat longum hexaphyllum formantibus. *Pronotum* transversum, subpulvinatum, lateribus obtuse angulatum, in omni margine pilis mollibus longis albis hirsutum.

Scutellum late cordatum. *Elytra* singula triangularia, postice multo angustiora, subacuminata; sutura aperta, longe et late hiant. *Metanotum* postice prolongatum, processu triangulari, excavato in apice binodulo, in suturam apertam intrante et ultra mediam suturam descendente. *Alæ* in apice suturæ apertæ libere prominentes. *Pectus* et *abdomen* densissime pilis longis mollibus albis hirsuta; pygidio cordato, usque ad basin abdominis retracto. *Pedes* longi; femoribus sat validis; tibiis brevibus; tarsis longis, gracilibus, setosis, ultimis longissimis et fimbriatis. *Tibie* anticæ compressæ, extus tridentatæ, calcare minutissimo; mediæ subcylindricæ, extus carinis duabus setosis et in apice corona setarum munitæ; posticæ valde clavatæ, similiter armatæ, utræque calcaribus duobus inæqualibus obtusis pellucidis, postico subfoliaceo. *Ungues* tarsorum 4 anticorum æquales, basi dilatati, pellucidi, et fissura obliqua divisi; posticorum simplices, valde inæquales, tennues, internus brevissimus. Articuli tarsorum omnium longitudine decrescentes, in apice setosi, ultimorum superne et inferne setis rigidis nigris fimbriati. (Sexus masculinus. Femina probabiliter figura differente, corpore crassiore, pedibus brevioribus, et forsán aptera).

Burmeisteria mirabilis.

B. nigerrima, subtus et in limbo pronoti pilis mollibus albis hirsuta; pygidio nudo, nitido. Long. corp. 9 lin., ped. post. 10 lin. ♂.

Hab.—In floribus *Leguminosarum*, circa Pilciao, ad pagum Andalgá provinciæ Catamarcæ.

Body stout, entirely black, somewhat resplendent; the whole underside, the outer border of the pronotum, and the edges of the legs, covered with long soft white hairs. The clypeus and front densely punctured, with short compressed white hairs; the naked middle of the pronotum with very fine punctures, and a longitudinal polished median line. Scutellum not so densely punctured, with a polished median line and outer margin. Elytra dull black, with polished shoulders, and two elevated longitudinal ridges, the surface punctured here and there, the punctures with a raised border. The conspicuous part of the metanotum is the open suture, longitudinally deepened, with punctures and white hairs therein, and two prominent notches at the end. Pygidium and middle

of the postpectus naked, polished and punctured on the sides, with long white hairs in each puncture. Legs polished, the femora and tibiæ densely covered with long white hairs on the margins, and with black bristles on the sides and the margins of the tarsal joints; the posterior tarsi with long black hairs on both sides above and below, and some white hairs at the beginning of the inside.

The female has not yet been found. The above descriptions have been submitted to Dr. Burmeister.



Explanation of Plate VII.

- Fig. 1. *Burmeisteria mirabilis*, ♂, natural size.
2. The antenna, magnified.
3. The mouth; *a*, labrum; *b, b*, maxillary palpi; *c, c*, labial palpi; *d*, mentum. Magnified.
4. Claws of anterior tarsi, magnified.
5. „ of posterior tarsi, magnified.
6. The pygidium, seen from below; natural size.

